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A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

M E D I C A L O F F I C E R O F H E A L T H

for the

Y E A R E N D I N G

31st D E C E M B E R, 1 9 5 0

----------oOo----------

OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1950

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, I deal briefly in this report with matters within my responsibility regarding public health and preventive medicine.

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area (in acres)	2,250
Registrar General's estimate of population	3,723
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1950	1,128
Rateable Value at 31st December, 1950	£23,928
Net product of a penny rate	£ 94

VITAL STATISTICS

	Males	Females	Total
Live Births - Legitimate	29	27	56
Illegitimate	2	1	3
	31	28	59
Still Births - Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

	Rate for District	Rate for England and Wales
Birth Rate	15.8	15.8
Death Rate	11.3	11.6
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	33.9	29.8

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	1
Acute poliomyelitis	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	3	2
" " breast	-	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	1	6
carried forward	6	14

Causes of Death continued:

	Males	Females
Brought forward	6	14
Coronary disease, angina	2	3
Hypertension with heart disease	3	-
Other heart disease	3	6
Other circulatory disease	-	2
Influenza	2	1
Pneumonia	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	1
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	-
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	2
Accidents	2	-
	23	29

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health - J. Young, M.B., Ch.B.,D.P.H.Camb. The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

Sanitary Inspector - H. Tabberer, Sanitary Inspector's Certificate Royal Sanitary Institute.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor of the Urban District.

2. LABORATORY FACILITIES.

The following examinations in your area were carried out during the year at the Public Health Laboratory, Leicester.

Throat Swab	197
Faeces	90
Sputum	39
Blood	34
Faeces and Urine	15
Ear Swab	12
Vaginal Swab	4
Pus from Abscess	4
Catheter Urine	3
Throat and Nose Swabs	3
Midstream Urine	2
Post Nasal Swab	2
Swab from Drainage Sinus	2
Foreign bodies from pint milk bottle	1
Culture	1
Faeces and Blood	1
Pus from Sinus	1
Nose Swab	1
Swab from wound	1
Pus from Furuncle	1
Cerebrospinal Fluid	1
Swab from Septic place on face ...	1
Pus from ? abscess of right shoulder	1
Blood films	1
Swab from palate	1
Typhoid culture	1
Pus from axillary abscess	1
Pleural effusion	1
Swab from peritoneal fluid	1

Milk	6
Water	26
Ice Cream	4

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. (i) WATER

	Bacteriological	Chemical
Number of samples taken for analysis:-		
(a) from wells	8 (from 6 wells)	
(b) from piped supply	18	-
Results of samples taken :-		
(a) from wells - unsatisfactory ...	7	-
satisfactory ...	1	-
(b) from piped supply - unsatisfactory ...	1	-
satisfactory ...	17	-

Five of the six unsatisfactory wells were actually used during the year and two of these serving three houses were replaced by piped supply.

The one unsatisfactory mains sample contained some water from a source not normally used but a further sample taken at that source (outside the Urban District) was satisfactory. A bacteriological sample from a source normally used was also satisfactory.

The public supply was fully maintained throughout the year except for two weeks in November when it was restricted to 7 a.m. to 10 p.m..

The Council's water undertaking extends to all but 27 houses in the Urban District, and supplies are given to Braunston, Burley and parts of Ashwell and Barleythorpe in the Rural District of Oakham. The supply in Braunston was extended during the year as far as the Vicarage.

1,060 taps etc., were adjusted or re-washered free of charge.

Over 97% of the houses and a rather higher percentage of the population of the Urban District are supplied by the Council. In some cases the water is not laid into the houses, and, in a few cases, one tap is shared by two or more houses. During the year water was led into houses in five cases, in addition to the three above.

The provision of an adequate water supply for the town remains as the major sanitary problem confronting the Council.

(ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE

120 yards of 15" diameter main outfall sewer have been laid to serve a housing estate and this will facilitate improving the gradient of main sewers in future.

There are 43 houses not connected to the sewer, they have, or share, cesspools or septic tanks and filters, of which there are 20.

(iii) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Total number in the District at the end of 1950 :-

(1) Privies	-
(2) Pail Closets	31
(3) Water Closets	1,335

Number of privies and Pail Closets converted to the water carriage system during the year ...	1
Number of Pail Closets abolished during the year	1

Closet Accommodation Continued:

21 of these 31 houses lack either piped water or sewer. The remaining 10 are mostly at old houses which are likely to be demolished when the housing situation is eased.

(iv) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

One man was engaged part time on the Refuse Tip with beneficial results. The tip is kept practically free from rats and no fly nuisance occurs. The Council use a Karrier Bantam petrol-driven refuse collecting vehicle, and the work is done in less than 5 days each week.

The small quantity of nightsoil is now tipped at the Sewage Disposal Works.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

The particulars given under this Heading are for all purposes including particulars given elsewhere in this Report.

Total number of complaints received	26
Total number of defects or nuisances discovered arising out of complaints	20

Nature of Inspections	Number of Inspections and Revisits
Dwelling houses (all purposes)	200
Tents, Vans, etc.	2
X Slaughter houses	-
Food premises	58
Dairies	12
Offensive trades	-
Animal keeping	9
Factories, etc.	20
Shops	30
Other premises	50
Water wastage	150
	531

X Slaughtering takes place at the Central Abbattoir, Melton Mowbray. Pigs are occasionally killed in Oakham.

NOTICES

	Housing	Other
Preliminary		
Outstanding on 1st January, 1950 ...	-	1
Issued during the year	2	22
Complied with during year	1	19
Outstanding 31st December, 1950 ...	1	4
Statutory action necessary	-	-
Statutory		
Outstanding 1st January, 1950 ...	3	-
Issued during the year	-	2
Complied with during year	3	2
Outstanding 31st December, 1950 ...	-	-

Most of the work is done by letter or telephone, and few formal notices, either preliminary or statutory, are used. Some nuisances, such as blockages in drains, are abated by Council men, this being considered the quickest method.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS

No houses were found to be infested during the year and therefore no action was necessary.

SCHOOLS

The Secondary School is a modern well-lighted building; so also are the Junior House, "Wharflands" and "Deanscroft". The others are mainly old-fashioned, but the sanitary conditions are reasonably satisfactory and the water supply is good.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

The swimming bath is owned by the School Trustees and loaned to the Council. Six inspections were made during the season.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

MILK SUPPLY

There are six distributors and four premises. 12 inspections of premises were made by your Medical Officer of Health and Sanitary Inspector.

Supplementary licences for retailing specially designated milk were issued during the year as follows :

Tuberculin Tested	Pasteuris ed	Dealers (Pasteurised)	Sterilised
2	1	1	1

ICE CREAM

Four samples of ice cream were taken and submitted to the Laboratories

Three were Grade I
One was Grade II This is satisfactory.

Very little ice cream is made in Oakham. The above samples were not produced here. There are now only two producers in Oakham.

MEAT SHOPS, MEAT STORES, ETC.

Number of inspections 12
13 lbs. ham was surrendered as unfit.

PLACES WERE FOOD (OTHER THAN MEAT) IS KEPT OR PREPARED FOR SALE.

Number of inspections 46
8 lbs. tinned meat and 100 lbs [redacted] of other foods were voluntarily surrendered as unfit.

H O U S I N G

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR

(a)	(i) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	120
	(ii) Number of inspections made for the purpose	149
(b)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (i) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932	-
(c)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	-
(d)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	10

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 2

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 3

Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice under Section 9 of the Housing Act, 1936 ... -

Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notice served under Public Health Act, 1936 1

One house was demolished voluntarily.

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936 - PART IV - OVERCROWDING

(a)	Number of dwelling houses known to be overcrowded at the end of 1950	4
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	5
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	28

There are cases where houses are uncomfortably full, but are not overcrowded by the Standards laid down in the Housing Act, 1936.

One case of overcrowding, involving 10 persons, was abated in 1950. There were, (at 31st. December, 1950), living in Oakham, 104 applicants for Council Houses. 48 of these persons are sharing houses with parents or others. In addition 80 persons now outside the Urban District also require houses here. These figures are much the same as for the previous year. Applications are constantly being received by the Sanitary Inspector and myself from families who are urgently in need of a Council House.

During the year 13 Council houses and 8 private houses were completed. One building was adapted to make a house.

At the end of 1950 the Council owned 177 houses NOT INCLUDING [redacted] 10 temporary bungalows.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Disease	Total cases Notified.	Cases Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Typhoid	1	1	-
Poliomyelitis	1	1	-
Dysentery	16	-	-
Food Poisoning	1	-	-
Scarlet fever	2	1	-
Erysipelas	3	1	-
Pneumonia	2	1	1
Meningitis	1	1	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	2	2	-

Typhoid - This case was a maid employed at the Oakham Public School. When the diagnosis was established it was obvious that serious consequences were possible. Prompt action was taken in collaboration with the Medical Officer and Head of the School and the Director of the Public Health Laboratory. Fortunately no secondary cases occurred. Investigations showed that the infection was most likely contracted in Ireland.

Poliomyelitis (Infantile Paralysis) - This disease received much publicity throughout the summer months and considerable anxiety resulted among the public. In Oakham we were fortunate in having only one case, a boy aged 6. His attack was of the non-paralytic type and he made a good recovery.

Dysentery - This disease is becoming increasingly prevalent owing to communal feeding habits and lack of cleanliness. As the attack is often mild and of short duration, in many cases a doctor is not consulted and the disease is passed on to others. Close supervision of food shops and education of the public in the rules of hygiene are necessary if the disease is to be checked.

Scarlet fever - This disease is now of a mild type.

It is noteworthy that no case of Diphtheria occurred during the year.

AGE GROUPS

Disease	Under One	1/2	2/3	3/4	4/5	5/10	10/15	15/20	20/35	35/45	45/64	65 & over
Typhoid	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	1	1	1	-	-	6	1	-	4	1	1	-
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet fever	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2	-
Pneumonia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Meningitis	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

T U B E R C U L O S I S

AGE GROUP	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non- pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 15	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 - 55	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-

There were 19 cases on the Tuberculosis Register at 31st. December, 1950.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

JOHN YOUNG,

Medical Officer of Health.

10, High Street,
Melton Mowbray.